

**Joint Cemetery Committee Meeting  
Monday, September 13, 2004, 10:00 a.m.**

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**Present:** Steve Long, NOVS Deputy Executive Director  
Wes Block, Cemetery Superintendent (NNVMC, Fernley)  
Jack Porrino, Cemetery Superintendent (SNVMC, Boulder City)  
Stan Jones, NNVMC Committee Chairman  
Kenneth Gardner, NNVMC Committee Vice Chairman  
Richard Bonebrake, NNVMC Committee Member  
Senator Lawrence Jacobsen, NNVMC Committee Member  
Assemblyman Tom Grady, NNVMC Committee Member  
Doug Byington, NNVMC Committee Member  
Mike Malone, SNVMC Committee Chairman  
Brad Benson, SNVMC Committee Vice Chairman  
Assemblyman Mark Manendo, SNVMC Committee Member  
Sam Ruvolo, SNVMC Committee Member  
Jeanette Rae, NOVS Service Officer  
Frances Peña, Administrative Assistant I

**Absent:** Chuck Fulkerson, NOVS Executive Director  
Senator Mike McGinness, NNVMC Committee Member  
Mitch Kuhn, SNVMC Committee Member  
Daniel Johnson, SNVMC Committee Member  
Senator Warren Hardy, SNVMC Committee Member

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Motion was made to approve the agenda. Agenda approved.

No minutes from the last meeting to approve.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Project Report for Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery**

A 5.5 acre expansion project was recently completed. This includes the addition of an 1828 sq ft Administration building, an 1850 sq ft Maintenance building and alterations to the existing 1100 sq ft Administration building. The alterations include converting the building to a public information center, expanding the restrooms and allowing room for indoor services as needed. The project also included 1758 pre-buried double casket vaults and a columbarium wall providing 2815 niches for above ground cremation placement, paving for expanded parking, roads and maintenance area and a six foot chain-link fence enclosing the cemetery grounds. As of the end of August, there are 3918 Veterans and family interned at the (Fernley) cemetery. The Columbarium wall was opened for placements in mid June and 70 niches have been used to date. Sixty-three of the sites in the new casket area since December 2003 have been used. The combined number of available burial sites created should carry on through the year 2012 based on current internment rate allowing for an increased number of internments

each year. With an increase in responsibility of maintaining the cemetery, additional man power is needed. Support is also needed from the honor camp crews from NDF with hopes of securing a commitment of at least one day of work per week at the cemetery. The purchase of a mini excavator needed to open sites in the new pre-buried vault area has been held up through Purchasing due to a protest by a bidding company. The matter is to be resolved at an appeal hearing on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The Veterans Memorial Cemetery Support Group of Northern Nevada has purchased several section markers to be placed at the cemetery with one of the markers engraved as being donated by the Group. The cost of each marker, including engraving, is \$220.00.

**2. Paving of road leading to Fernley Cemetery**

The paving of the road from the Truck Stop to the cemetery is in the works. Assemblyman Tom Grady has been working with Senator Ensign's office and with NDOT to get this started.

**3. Dave and Parsons and his wife were recognized for their unlimited support of the cemetery. Their names will be added to the plaque, along with those others who have been very instrumental in the success of the cemetery.**

**4. Project Report for Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery**

It was asked that Legislation, as well as the committees involved; help assist the cemeteries to ensure they receive the manpower required. Inmates help out once or twice a week at the SNVMC although a firm commitment would be appreciated. Vaults are now being delivered. Cemetery Superintendent, Jack Porrino, will meet with Dan Daily, Public Works Board, on Thursday (September 16<sup>th</sup>) to discuss fast-tracking some remains so the cemetery does not run out of burial plots. They will be part of the new Phase 4 that was designed and hopefully the final design stages of Phase 4 will be turned into the federal government so that the rest of the grant money can be released and then the project can begin. Included in the project is a new Maintenance building, the Administrative building was cut due to lack of funds. During the last committee meeting, there was a sub-committee established to help ensure the cemetery has veterans groups that will do the ceremonies for Memorial Day, to ensure they have the proper amount of flags required to cover all the graves on Memorial Day and to ensure that indigent veterans received from the Clark County system receive a service rather than being buried directly. There was an Eagle Scout project which led to the front corner of the cemetery being renovated. This included a statue of an eagle with two benches on each side and flags on the statue. There was no cost to the state.

**5. Report from the Executive Deputy Director**

In the next legislative session, requests will be made for additional personnel throughout the agency. An additional 14 personnel is being requested for the agency (NON Nursing Home) which includes Service Officers. The location of the new Veterans Hospital in Southern Nevada has not yet been announced. The VA Hospital in the south has been with an Acting Director for some time and the opening has been announced. Possible candidates are being selected and the process is well underway. No information has been release on the new location for the Regional Office in Reno. Deputy Executive Director, Steve Long will meet with Cemetery Superintendents Wes Block and Jack Porrino to draft a policy to cover what memorials can be or will be included in the future. Draft proposals will be forwarded to both committees for

approval. Two Bill Drafts will be submitted to the Legislature next year. One Bill Draft is to enable the Executive Director of Veterans Services to provide names of qualified nominees for the Governor to appoint new commissioners to fill vacancies on the Veterans Services Commission. The other Bill Draft is to eliminate the requirement for the two cemetery committees, northern and southern, to meet jointly at least twice per year at alternate locations.

**6. Open discussion regarding flat, horizontal grave markers versus vertical grave markers**

A letter from Colonel Robert L. Bobbett, USAF urged that the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery use the vertical grave markers instead of the flat, horizontal ones. It was agreed upon by both cemetery superintendents and committee members that the current flat granite markers are easier to install to upkeep. It was noted that currently there is not enough personnel to maintain the look of the vertical markers and would also cost the State more money.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.